

ARGL Review of 2019

Lyndale Fields, Preston

In early autumn ARGL was approached by rangers at South Ribble Borough Council with a request to help manage three ponds at Lyndale Fields, an area of public open space to the south of Preston. Common frog and smooth newt have been recorded there and management was required to prevent the pond edges becoming increasingly shaded. This work took place over three task days in November and December during which a huge amount was achieved. Many of the trees needed to be felled into the water and were dragged out by the volunteers.



ARGL volunteers at the second habitat management task at Lyndale Fields.



Lyndale Fields, before and after: This was one of the pond edges where trees were cleared to allow more light to the pond margins. Tree stumps were left high as they will be re-cut and treated by South Ribble Borough Council.



ARGL highlights of 2019

- Pond management for amphibians at Lyndale Fields.
- Reptile survey training at Smithills, Bolton.
- Amphibian survey near Chorley.

A look forward to 2020

2019 has been a relatively quiet year for ARGL, mainly due to the work commitments of group members. However time has been well spent obtaining permission for pond management tasks in 2020. One of these is an exciting opportunity to work with HMP Wymott (near Preston) to help manage some of eighteen ponds on their land, a few of which support great crested newts. The volunteers will be removing trees casting dense shade over three ponds and advising on the management of others. This project arose out of work started in 2019 by Buckinghamshire ARG and presented at last year's HWM.

The group aims to survey a number of ponds in spring and will be managing more ponds in Lancashire and Greater Manchester. Keep your eye on the ARGL website for task details!

Your ARGL Committee in 2019

Chair: David Orchard
Database Manager: Lee Brady
Treasurer: Lorna Bousfield

groups.arguk.org/argl

